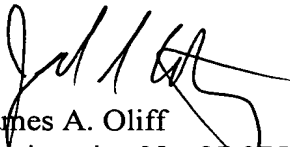


REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 6 is amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,975

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/cmm

Date: December 28, 2000

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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